

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method of using a substrate transport pod is suitable for manufacturing semiconductor devices with copper wiring and low dielectric insulating film having dielectric constants of less than 3. The method is based on loading the substrates into a pod from an atmosphere of a first process, and circulating a gaseous atmosphere through interior of the pod in such a way to selectively remove at least one contaminant including moisture, particulate substances or chemical substances, and to expose the substrates to a controlled atmosphere intermittently or continually while the substrates are held in the pod before they are unloaded from the pod and introduced into a second process. For a pod that is used to house the substrates for the purpose of retaining or transporting, the pod has a pod main body and a door that provides a hermetic seal, the pod is made primarily of a material that has moisture absorption factor of less than 0.1 %, the pod can contact the substrates directly or indirectly and has a conductive area so as to enable static charges to be guided out of the pod.

15